

Living is a matter of method

Fictions, realities, current affairs, memory, songs, books, cooking recipes, writers, language, culture, baseball and soccer in the comments of the Venezuelan writer Jesús Nieves Montero.

Saturday, March 10, 2007

A classic boarding: the film Bolívar, The Liberator

Not only [Hugo Chávez](#) and his revolutionaries have tried to profit leoninely from the legacy of Simón Bolívar, the greatest icon of Venezuelanness...

More than ten years ago, Mr. Edgar Meinhardt, a Venezuelan, and Michael J. Cooper, an Englishman, began a path that would lead them to delude some unsuspecting and enthusiastic Bolivarians, to defraud a few investors and, ultimately, to leave them all with the frizzy facts... It was when they proposed

a supposed film called Bolivar, The Liberator, although, reviewing in the web, once also claimed to be called, simply and metaphysically, [The vision](#) (it seems a title close to characters of the revolution like General Baduel)

Like everything related to Bolívar, it began a widespread fervor in Venezuela. Gilberto Correa announced the sale of shares in the film on his Flash program. People bought and then no one responded.

The [product](#) magazine commented that:

"The press circle of Proyecto Bolívar, made up of journalists from the entertainment source, will be able to access the cast and film sets to narrate the progress of the project."

A blockbuster worthy of the Father of the Nation.

At first the postponements were justified. Bolívar would be played by [Johnny Depp](#) , [Andy García](#) or [Antonio Banderas](#) . They would also be [Salma Hayek](#) and the Egyptian [Omar Shariff](#) . Putting together a cast like that, if you're not [Steven Soderbergh](#) and you're not shooting Ocean's 100th, is tricky. I would direct either [Alan Bridges](#) or [Francis Ford Coppola](#) .

Then the story became more tangled when they proposed to first make a miniseries for television to finish completing the funds for the production.

In January 2000, *producto* magazine echoed the incipient skepticism:

"A cybernetic rumor circulates among Venezuelan netizens: Bolivar the Liberator will never be filmed, and those responsible for its financing and filming, Edgard Meinhardt-Iturbe and Manuel Meinhardt-Lares , are accused of defrauding shareholders who have invested in the film through their company PBL.

According to the complainants, the possibility that stars of the stature of Andy García, Omar Shariff and Leonardo Di Caprio star in the work, that the London Symphony Orchestra is a sponsor, that PBL still maintains good relations with the British screenwriter Michael J. Cooper (the script does exist!), and a thousand wonders more, they are nothing but pure fantasy."

Meinhardt defended himself in a report by [the national](#) of October 27, 2002, commenting that the sale of shares and the delays were due to the fact that "in Hollywood, money talks. It was essential to collect money to control production. Because any study can be interested in developing this story, but with the capital ahead, we could control the production so that a Rambo would not come out. Karenina Velandia, who signs the text, sarcastically points out a feature that accumulates to irregularities: Edgard Meinhardt has never worked in the film industry.

Then Michael Cooper, the screenwriter, gave a press conference in Caracas, accusing Meinhardt of being a fraud and discouraging investors who showed up at the meeting to try to get their money back from him.

The reality is that recently -January 31, 2007- the Constitutional Chamber of the Supreme Court of Justice [has declared inadmissible an injunction](#) introduced by the producer to prevent the foreclosure of a mortgage by Banco

Industrial.

And not a movie, nor a miniseries, nor García, Banderas or Depp and, according to the Internet Movie Database, [The Liberator](#) is simply a 12-minute English short film and Bolivar only appeared in that magnificent Colombian farce [Bolívar, it's me](#) ...

Why Why will Venezuela always be vulnerable to the appearance of this type of mega shipments?

Let's see if we develop antibodies...

[Jesus Nieves Montero](#) at [7:32 a.m.m.](#)

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